

VIETNAM COURIER

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SEVERE U.S.-PUPPET LOSSES HIGHLIGHTS OF MILITARY SITUATION

Significance of PLAF Successes
in 35 Days of "Post-Tet" Wide-
spread Attacks

- 104,000 enemy casualties, including 56,000 GIs and mercenaries from satellite countries.
- 35 battalions and mixed units of battalion size wiped out or heavily decimated.
- 1,600 planes and copters shot down or destroyed on the ground, 2,900 military vehicles including 1,448 tanks and armoured troop carriers wrecked, 530 cannons and mortars destroyed, 275 vessels and combat launches sunk or set afire, 270 depots of war supplies set ablaze or blown up.

(Abridged excerpts from April 6, 1969
PLAF Command's Communiqué)

Pages 4-5

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GROWING POPULAR DISCONTENT IN THE U.S. OVER NIXON'S VIET NAM POLICY

*T*HE Nixon administration had to face on April 5 last the biggest wave of popular protest against the U.S. war in Viet Nam since its coming to power. The demonstrators gave a warning that as long as the war lasted, such actions would continue.

At the Capitol, the "heavy-handed policies" by the new governmental team had practically ended. William Fulbright reminded Nixon of his promises in 1968 when he was electioneering for president. Rep. John Conyers of Michigan remarked that the United States under Nixon had escalated both its air bombings and its ground war activities.

The whole American people had been given their satisfaction with the new president's policy. The April 5 demonstrators' armada carrying the figure "33,000" represented the number of American troops killed in Viet Nam according to the U.S. Defence Department, spoke volumes for the feelings of U.S. men-in-the-street. As U.S.

authorities have admitted that 61,000 casualties in South Viet Nam have doubled compared with the last months of 1968, they cannot have much confidence in the "pacification" which is supposed to result from their own propaganda on the "de-Americanization" of the war, the "disarmament" and "de-mobilization" arms of Nguyen Van Thieu and Nguyen Cao Ky are obvious.

The American people, as well as American politicians, more or less possessed of a sense of realism as regards U.S. military power, had been expecting from Nixon a new Viet Nam

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THE DRVN DOWNS THE 3,276 th U.S. PLANE

On April 5, at nightfall, an American pilotless plane was grounded over Ho Tay province west of Hanoi. This was the fifth North Vietnamese downing brought the total of U.S. planes and helicopters shot down between August 5, 1964 and April 5, 1969 to:

3,276



Plain of Reeds people supplying the front line.

PARIS CONFERENCE ON VIET NAM HOLDS 12th PLENARY SESSION

At the 12th plenary session (April 10, 1969) the representative of the Saigon puppet administration not only refused to accept the demands of the delegations but went to the length of demanding that the NFL "drop down its weapons" and endorse the traitors' "constitution". As for Cabot Lodge, the envoy from Washington, he again added his oil to the fire which the NFL and the DRVN had so many times rejected.

NFL representative Tran Van Kiem forcefully denounced the traitorous nature of the Saigon clique, the abominable crimes it had committed against the people and directed public attention to its present pitiful disintegration. He dissected Nguyen Van Thieu's "no point program" point by point and dismissed it as a proposal that the South Vietnamese people give up their legitimate struggle against aggression whereas U.S. and

satellite troops continue to occupy South Viet Nam, and that the PLAAF capitulate, be disbanded and accept the puppet rule. Mr. Tran Van Kiem also exposed the South Vietnamese people's resolve to carry on their fight against U.S. aggression and highlighted the soundness and reasonableness of the NFL's 5 points for the peaceful settlement of the South Viet Nam issue.

Taking the floor in his turn, Mr. Pham Van Dong, representative of the DRVN government, condemned the Nixon Administration's ambiguous "great program for peace", "private talks" overture and suggestion that the opposition U.S. intention to help the Laotian and Cambodian question to divert public attention from the clearly set goal of the Paris conference, a political solution to the South Viet Nam issue. It is precisely the United States who has been denounced by the Laotian and Cambodian peoples, Mr. Xuan Thuy

emphasized. On April 7, the Lao Patriotic Front Central Committee made public a statement strongly condemning the statement of war as aggression waged by the U.S. against Laos, and in March 1969 alone, the Cambodian government issued a protest against US violations of Cambodian territory.

The DRVN chief negotiator put concrete proofs that the US had been intensifying its war in Viet Nam, savagely bombing the people and violating the sovereignty of the DRVN. In March 1969, the number of sorties made by U.S. bombers planes rose by 5% compared with Feb. 1969, and the bombings carried out deep into North Vietnamese territory.

On April 6, the U.S. aircrafts had raided the Northern part of the DMZ and the next day U.S. aircraft eight times bombed houses held by big junks towed by ships to Sa Huynh, allegedly to "settle" them at Cam Ranh. Suddenly the American ships changed speed and direction and made for the open sea. Seeing that sea water was leaking in, the passengers immediately realized the dark designs of the enemy and started screaming. The Yankees cut off the rope, tugging the junks and opened fire to sink them quickly.

Some survivors succeeded in reaching the mainland or got rescued by fishermen.

On March 13, hundreds of coracles were washed back onto the shore between Cua Dai and Sa Huynh (Quang Ngai province) and even to Tam Quan gate (Binh Dinh province) further south.

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Growing Popular Discontent in the U.S. ...

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policy. In August last, the Republican convention formulated this criticism: "The administration's policy toward Viet Nam has failed militarily, politically, diplomatically, and with regard to our own people. This is at the moment precluding candidate Nixon did not put forward any remedy to the disease."

An inmate of the White House said just now: "The new President now has had all the time to look through his Viet Nam file and to be filled in by his military and civilian advisers, including his Defense Secretary, recently back from a tour in South Viet Nam. What supernatural suggestion came out of his mind?"

Was it the replacement of the word "de-Americanization" (of the country) by the word "Vietnamization"? Was it the attempt to merge into 2 or 3 "big" parties the existing 80 South Vietnamese tiny political groups? Was it the desire to "widen and broaden the democratic base" of the Nguyen Van Thieu Government? Or the diplomatic plan was it the presidential election of the Paris Conference of the crucial problem of the total and unconditional withdrawal of U.S. and satellite troops from South Viet Nam? Who can know? The matinées can get the Nixon administration out of its Viet Nam deadlock. Neither can the recent speech by Secretary of State Rogers where were repeated such

hucknay formulas as "respect for the DMZ", "implementation of the Geneva agreements as far as possible", "no international control", and so on so forth. As for the "dramatic" offer of "privates talk" it is as though like an absent move, since everybody is aware that the form of negotiations has never been a decisive factor and can never be unless the U.S. had faith in its ability to force the对方 to cease their aggression and withdraw unconditionally all U.S. and satellite troops from South Viet Nam.

It is clear that the American people are not to be easily taken in by their rulers' tricks. They know that the administration's new proposals and statements are nothing but camouflage concealing the pursuance of a war policy, and that like the Johnson, Nixon wants to continue and step up their military and economic aggression in the hope of creating a position of strength at the Conference table, to achieve finally the neo-colonialist design of U.S. imperialism.

The American people who have been suffering in their own flesh from this unjust and disastrous war, make it a point to express their views, and that is what explains the new wave of unrest within the American nation. Their action which is undoubtedly aimed at the overthrow of the Nixon regime, has been joined by the Vietnamese people who are resolved to defeat the aggression unleashed by an enemy common to both peoples and to all peoples of the world: U.S. imperialism.

US-PUPPETS' CRIMES IN SOUTH VIET NAM

Further Details on the Ba Lang An Massacre of 1,000 People

FOLLOWING the April 2, 1969 statement of the South Viet Nam NFL Permanent Representation in the North, a special communiqué released by the Committee to Denounce War Crimes of the U.S. Imperialists and their Henchmen in South Viet Nam has supplied fresh details on the massacre of one thousand inhabitants of Ba Lang An.

The life of 11,000 people of Ba Lang An forcefully taken to the Van Thanh concentration area on Thien An mount, the communiqué said, was simply unbearable there. Penned in up in its dwelling houses washed back with corrugated iron or nylon sheets cordoned off by three layers of barbed wire, on a burning sand bank, permanently watched by three companies of GIs, puppet troops and civic guards and constantly harassed and threatened by two "pacification" agents' teams they had no other alternative than to rise up against this harsh treatment.

In order to stamp out their struggle the enemy moved on March 9, 4,000 of them to Co Layestuary. The following day, he picked out 1,000, most of them members of former residents' families or suspected of having connection with the NFL and shipped them on board big junks towed by ships to Sa Huynh, allegedly to "settle" them at Cam Ranh. Suddenly the American ships changed speed and direction and made for the open sea. Seeing that sea water was leaking in, the passengers immediately realized the dark designs of the enemy and started screaming. The Yankees cut off the rope, tugging the junks and opened fire to sink them quickly.

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Anecdotes Around Paris Conference

When the Saigon Puppets Play the Diplomats

INDEED, they have been playing the diplomats for over ten years since the signing of their "so-called" "independent Republic of Viet Nam," but it is only at the Paris Conference that they have been given the opportunity to perform before a truly international audience.

In Paris, Pham Van Dong

and confederates are making a show of their skill. First, in juggling with logic and reason of Viet Nam (the North Vietnamese)? Haven't they talked about "independence of U.S. and satellite troops from South Viet Nam"?

It is clear that the American people are not to be easily taken in by their rulers' tricks. They know that the administration's new proposals and statements are nothing but camouflage concealing a collective form?"...

Second, skill in distorting things: they have been so loudly trumpeting their "independence", "sovereignty" and "constitutional" and "democracy" and "freedom" in the areas under their rule in South Viet Nam. Under their eyes they made certain "faux pas" which somehow marred their performances. For instance, when Lam was speaking at the conference of Viet Nam, "he boasted that this strange republic had sprung from the "State of Vietnam" created by the French emperor"—with the French colonialists' help, and pooh-poohed a puppet state by everyone, including the late President J.F. Kennedy.

And these diplomatic antics of puppets are going on in the French capital to the great delight of the public.

But things really roached a climax when at a press conference, the Saigon delegation produced no less than two spymen: Nguyen Trieu Dan and Dang Duc Dan, former representatives of the Viet Cong. During the press conference, Nguyen Trieu Dan, the latter Nguyen Gau Ky,

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Viet Nam COURIER

THE NORTH—GREAT REAR BASE OF THE SOUTH

OVER the last few years, elections at various levels have been taken place regularly in North Viet Nam despite the US war: regional elections to people's councils in April 1965; elections to people's councils and districts in villages and similar localities in April 1967; elections to people's councils of zones, towns and provinces in April 1968; the forthcoming ones on April 11 will return people's councils at district and village levels. These elections have been held in accordance with the provisions provided for in the Constitution and the Law on the Organization of People's Councils and Administrative Committees in the DRVN. Special attention is paid to

them because they help ascertain the feeling of the people of villages, that is the level which directly carries out the policies, measures of districts and provinces which directly see to the implementation of the State policies in various localities.

Our State has amended the relevant legislation in the sense of a simpler electoral procedure suited to war conditions and of ensuring and increasing the democratic rights of the people. Appropriate methods have been adopted to facilitate the voting process. Voting places will be divided into smaller units, voters scattered because of eventual air raids can vote in their evacuation places; supplementary ballot boxes will be available in



A Hoai AA unit taking part in municipal elections.

THE district of Quan Ba which covers an area about 400 square kilometers west of Ha Giang mountainous province, has per cent of its land dotted with hills. It is picturesque for its majestic Ba Lang mountain peaks, many streams, rivers and its Moc river rolling silvery waters across the immense rice plain. During the rainy season, the streams flood the plain. In 1966 the gross food output of Quan Ba was 27.27 per cent above norm. This year along with the people developing animal husbandry, its people are working hard to raise its rice yield to 2.5 tons per hectare and its maize output to 1.5 tons.

Under French rule, Quan Ba district had no handicrafts, now it boasts 15 branches serving agriculture such as: Smithery,

agricultural product processing enterprises. Twenty six workshops meet the needs of the district in farm implements. The Ma Lang channel of 1,200 metres long irrigates terraced rice fields on mountain slopes. Since 1954, formerly tumultuous waters from the Tham Tinh mountain are now checked by the Quan Ba dam before coming down to the plain. In 1966 the gross food output of Quan Ba was 27.27 per cent above norm. This year along with the people developing animal husbandry, its people are working hard to raise its rice yield to 2.5 tons per hectare and its maize output to 1.5 tons.

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goods handled by hand was reduced by 53.3 per cent last year. Quan Ba people used to exchange their fowl and pigs for salt at exorbitant rates. Now the salt supply from cooperatives in the district are driving a roaring business. Pack horses bring salt to all hooks and corners of Quan Ba, the texts, kerchiefs and medicines find their way through the Ta Lang mountain pass to remote localities in the district.

Disseases, especially malaria, have also been eliminated. Prophylactic hygiene has spread to the whole district. Quan Ba hospital is the first in the district to have a medical assistant-doctor. Every village in the district has its own infirmary adequately staffed by nurses and midwives.

The melodious song of wind pipe instruments now heard everywhere in Quan Ba district reflects the enthusiasm of its 6,000 inhabitants over the achievements recorded in the construction and defense of their native district.

Viet Nam COURIER

Electoral Rights to Be Strictly Exercised in War Time

the setting up of their own power.

In 1968, the number of representatives elected to town and provincial levels were 2,550 out of 3,431 candidates. Through the democratic process, the people have been able to choose their representatives among outstanding fighters of the anti-US movement and mass organizations, popular heroes, heroic sons, communists and various nationalities have selected their own representatives. The rate of representation who directly take part in the resistance and young people has been increasing year by year. While in 1965, female representatives made up 20.4% on village, 26.4% on district and 28% on province levels.

In the April 1968 elections to people's councils at district and village levels in Vientam, the previous enemy planes struck at polling booths, but immediately after the air raids, the voting resumed as scheduled. In the districts of Dien Bien Phu and Tinh Tinh provinces, enemy planes flew 20 sorties over 25 polling booths but the elections went off successfully with a 97 per cent turn-out.

On election days, the scenes of Catholic, Buddhist and Kinh (Vietnamese) primitive and minority ethnic groups of female workers going to the polls hand in hand with girl students, especially of young citizens voting for the first time, is a fine picture that symbolizes the unity of the entire people and the eagerness of a people who can freely exercise their democratic rights and see themselves to

Thanks to the widening of democratic rights, the relations between the people and the people's councils and administrative committees have become closer and closer. The local people's councils and administrative committees have aptly discharged their functions, successfully mobilizing the people and managing production, the solidarity of the entire people and the eagerness of a people who can freely exercise their democratic rights and see themselves entrusted to them by the State.

Supers in their own script. The fact that 4,000 people in the district go to school shows how great is the change brought to the district compared with the period prior to 1954. Today, when the whole district had only six literate people.

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VIET NAM AND THE WORLD

IN THE UNITED STATES

WIDESPREAD ACTIONS for an End to Viet Nam War

Responding to an appeal of the National Mobilization Committee to End the War in Viet Nam, hundreds of thousands of Americans in 43 states on April 5 turned out in the streets urging a halt to the U.S. war in Viet Nam, pulling off "Get Out" from South Viet Nam and resolution of peace in Viet Nam. This was the first great protest wave against the Viet Nam war since the beginning of the Nixon administration.

Participating in the demonstrations, old and young, Black and White, included unionists, clergymen, professors, anti-Viet Nam war groups, GIs on active service and demobilized army men.

In New York, about 20,000 people, including Negroes and white Black activists along with the "intransigent" GIs, presented their case to the U.S. casualty figures released by the U.S. government March 10, with African Americans in Central Park in the "biggest peace demonstration in New York in two years." At the rally in central Park, the GIs, representing the GIs, declared that the U.S. war in Viet Nam is "immoral," and contradicts the American people's interests.

Howard Zinn, professor of American University, said that the American people must urge Washington to stop this "barbaric and unjust war." A resolution of congratulation from Mrs. Nguyen Thi Huan, deputy head of the NLF Delegation to the Paris Conference, was played back.

In Los Angeles, 5,000 progressive youth participated in a protest peace rally at MacArthur Park in the downtown area.

In Atlanta, Georgia, thousands of Black and White people took part in a protest peace rally at MacArthur Park in the downtown area.

In San Francisco, more than 2,000 people staged a protest march against the Viet Nam war.

In Chicago, despite the presence of over 500 police, nearly 2,000 demonstrators marched for 2 hours in what *UPI* described as "the first large-scale demonstration since President Nixon took office."

In Baltimore, more than 2,500 people staged a protest march against the Viet Nam war.

In Philadelphia, several hundred people spent the day outside the recruiting office calling through a loud-speaker the names of GIs killed in Viet Nam.

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In Philadelphia, several hundred people staged a protest march against the Viet Nam war.

Meetings and parades also took place in several cities in Florida and Pennsylvania. A demonstration was held near Nixon's country house in Florida to protest draft.

On the second day of the anti-Viet Nam war drive

UK plane made a last circle over Copenhagen and carried us away to Denmark. We were brought to a close one-threshold visit to Denmark. Waving our hands, we bade farewell to its many hundred pictureque islands which gradually came out of the mist. During our stay in that far-off land, what attracted us most was not its beauty, but the manifestations of sincere friendship felt by the Communist Party, the working class and Danish progressives for our country and our people.

Despite their huge programs, machismo and the savagery effected by the American imperialists cannot distort the truth about their dirty war of aggression. Wherever we went, we virtually met no Danish

won the hearts and minds of Danish progressives. The hall where the 2nd Congress of the Danish Central Committee of the Communist Party had its session had no other decorations than the flags of Denmark, of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and the National Front for Liberation. The first problem raised by the political report of the Party Central Committee was Viet Nam, and the first point of the resolution of the Congress was also Viet Nam. The only message to the world's revolutionaries people and communists was that the Congress was the one sent to the heroic people of Viet Nam. The addresses of the representatives of our Party and the NLF were greeted by storms of applause. The delegates chanted "Viet Nam" "Ho! Ho Chi Minh!"—shouts which resounded in the very heart

the boy answered most naturally.

Everybody burst out laughing.

As we were preparing to leave for the airport on our home trip, three young men called on us. Twenty year old age at that time, members working a liner. They had come from an island in the Arctic, hundreds of miles away, in the thick of winter, and had been unable to find earth to contact us and had over 2,000 kroner they had saved. No small sum indeed for young workers who had just come from apprenticeship! More significantly, it carried the weight of the Danish working class' lofty feelings for Viet Nam and the Vietnamese people.

While following the developments in our country, Danish progressive paid

Three Days in DENMARK

by HONG NGA

progressive who did not feel indifferent at the atrocities committed by the Yankees. From the White House, a large number of protesters including people from other countries, met at Macpherson Square there marched on the White House.

In Copenhagen, some 500 people, including servicemen, marched three miles from the civic centre to the presidio camp where last October U.S. soldiers staged a sit-in against the aggression in Viet Nam for which they were charged with mutiny and detained at the same prison. Their fight has filled us "with confidence, admiration and pride."

From the towns, cities, districts, now unfolding for the collection of a million kroner, medicines, medical appliances, clothing material, etc., to aid fighting Viet Nam, go on making progress which people affirm their solidarity with our resistance to the Yankees. They have emerged one after another, undertake to inform wide popular strata of the heroic struggle of the Vietnamese people's struggle against U.S. aggression, for national salvation until total victory."

Pictures of President Ho Chi Minh and flags of the DRVN and the NLF can be seen everywhere. They are helping to bring up which people affirm their solidarity with our resistance to the Yankees. They have emerged one after another, undertake to inform wide popular strata of the heroic struggle of the Vietnamese people's struggle against U.S. aggression, for national salvation until total victory."

On the front concern of the Free Viet Nam Committee and the Federation of Vietnamese Solidarity with Viet Nam at the center, the Danes have already set up the 1969 Viet Nam Committee intended to rally still more adherents and step up for our people the most effective manner our people in production. From the Free Viet Nam Committee and the Federation of Vietnamese Solidarity with Viet Nam at the center, the Danes have already set up the 1969 Viet Nam Committee intended to rally still more adherents and step up for our people the most effective manner our people in production.

We also found tokens of progressive Danish people's true sentiments toward our country and our people in the zealous workers and drivers, interpreters and divers, even in the affectionate smiles of children we came across. We visited the family of Com. Com. Vo Van Thanh, Party member, on the Spring Festival Day. According to the tradition, on this occasion everyone takes part in a family dress. Vo Van Thanh put on a helmet and carried a rifle slung over his shoulder.

"What sort of costume have you on?" I asked him.

"That of a Vietnamese guerrilla fighting the Yankees," he replied.

Though thousands of miles apart, we live under the same roof.

Proletarians everywhere are brothers.

attention not only to our fighting and production, but also to the progress of our literature and arts. Several told us of the education and training of the members of our films as *A road through Ha Tinh* and *A foot of arms*. Many felt most gratified at the news that our art ensemble will be performing in France. Our friends knew what Tel meant to us and as our stay coincided with that traditional festival, they offered the opportunity of enjoying it in Osterbro quarter of the capital. Celebrating with us the Vietnamese New Year, we enjoyed our stay with our friends in Osterbro.

She stopped and tried to place "Oh! Saki" she cried softly, obviously overcome with joy. Then looking suddenly embarrassed, she began tracing little figures on the ground with her fingers. She had not noticed my expression on my face as I involuntarily looked at her wooden leg. I gently asked her to sit down and have a talk.

Khoi seized a knife and brandished it in my face. "We'll make you talk all right, wench! Put her to the rack, boys," he barked. His eyes were bloodshot and his forehead beaded with sweat.

The four of them brutally took hold of me, stripped me of my clothes, flung me on the plank-bed and immobilized my wrists and ankles with the iron rings. One-wickedly squeezed my injured leg, which gave me a terrible pain. Khoi tossed his knife at my feet and left. "Where are your unit gone? Where are your caches? What kinds of weapons have you got?"

Again, Lam tried the "soft" technique. "Talk," he said, "and we won't beat you. These gentlemen will even give you money." He looked at the Americans and gave an obsequious laugh. The Yanks nodded approvingly.

I spat blood at their faces and cried, "You want my time and effort. Yankee aggressors, get out!"

Khoi, mad with rage, rushed forward, seized the knife and gave a violent blow to my leg. The terrible pain shot up through my whole body. A sharp choke and my eyes filled with tears.

The day following my arrival, I was taken to the torture chamber. It was filled with all kinds of instruments: iron bars, nails, hammers, pliers, containers

The Young Nurse

Huynh Thi Kien, 21, was a nurse with a guerrilla unit in Dien Ban district (23 km south of Da Nang). Caught by the enemy in February 1967, she evinced great courage under the most savage tortures. U.S.-puppet agents twice tried to cut off her leg. The following story recounts their barbarous attempts.

(Editor's note)

I spent that night in a field hospital in the midst of the jungle. Although overcome with fatigue, I kept tossing in my bed and couldn't sleep.

At one point late at night, I heard light footsteps and a little clinking sound. In the half-light of the moon, I saw a young woman lying down the underground passage; she was leaning on a crutch and holding in her hand a small saucer containing little glass or metallic objects—possibly syringes and needles. She stopped at the bedside of a wounded soldier and gently woke him up to give him an injection. As she limped past my bed after finishing, I looked at her pale, chubby face and slant eyes and thought I recognized her. I sat up and asked her point-blank, "Aren't you Lam Kien? You worked as a nurse with the Dien Ban guerrillas, didn't you?"

I was sixteen. At my age, who would not value life? But I decided not to bow my head before the enemy. I lied, "I want to live." I shouted, "I'm not like you, in ignominy, licking American boots and torturing your fellow-countrymen!"

Lam, Khoi and two thugs came into the room, followed by two Americans. Khoi gave me a cold stare and suddenly ordered me to strip. Knocking me to the floor, I had two front teeth broken and my mouth was filled with blood.

Then his confederate Lam tried the "soft" technique. As she limped past my bed after finishing, I looked at her pale, chubby face and slant eyes and thought I recognized her. I sat up and asked her point-blank, "Aren't you Lam Kien? You worked as a nurse with the Dien Ban guerrillas, didn't you?"

She stopped and tried to place "Oh! Saki" she cried softly, obviously overcome with joy. Then looking suddenly embarrassed, she began tracing little figures on the ground with her fingers. She had not noticed my expression on my face as I involuntarily looked at her wooden leg. I gently asked her to sit down and have a talk.

Here is the story Lam Kien told me that night:

"It was in mid-February 1967. After breaking an enemy camp, we were on the plank-bed and immobilized my wrists and ankles with the iron rings. One-wickedly squeezed my injured leg, which gave me a terrible pain. Khoi tossed his knife at my feet and left. "Where are your unit gone? Where are your caches? What kinds of weapons have you got?"

Again, Lam tried the "soft" technique. "Talk," he said, "and we won't beat you. These gentlemen will even give you money." He looked at the Americans and gave an obsequious laugh. The Yanks nodded approvingly.

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The day following my arrival, I was taken to the torture chamber. It was filled with all kinds of instruments: iron bars, nails, hammers, pliers, containers

A doctor came in and tried to intervene: "Why be so cruel to a young girl," he pleaded. Put her in jail if she is guilty of some offense." A violent blow struck him in the chest. "Get out!" shouted Khoi. Breathing hard, he turned to me: "Will you speak?" Again, I said, "No."

Khoi again struck my leg with his knife. The others also joined in. Writhing with pain, I felt my leg being gradually cut off from my body. The torturers were howling and their American "advisers" guffawing uproariously....

When I came to, a nurse was looking after me. She was a gentle and compassionate woman. Each day, she washed my wounds and changed the bandages. From time to time she would give me an injection. As she limped past my bed after finishing, I looked at her pale, chubby face and slant eyes and thought I recognized her. You're young. Why give your life to the Vietcong?"

I was nineteen. At my age, who would not value life? But I decided not to bow my head before the enemy. I lied, "I want to live." I shouted, "I'm not like you, in ignominy, licking American boots and torturing your fellow-countrymen!"

Khoi seized a knife and brandished it in my face. "We'll make you talk all right, wench! Put her to the rack, boys," he barked. His eyes were bloodshot and his forehead beaded with sweat.

After three weeks, seeing that I had recovered some of my strength, the thugs again sought to extort information from me. They subjected me to electrical shocks or thrust clips of sharpened cartridges into my ribs. I clenched my teeth and called to mind the heroic examples set by Nguyen Van Troi and Tran Thi Ly, those revolutionaries who had faced enemy tortures so fearlessly.

One day in the fifth week after my arrest, my friend the nurse suddenly turned up. Her anguished look was a bad presage. She leaned over, kissed me in the forehead and whispered in my ear after looking right and left, "They want to make away with you, or at least to cut off your leg so that you will no more be able to serve the revolution." She quietly went away after slipping a few precious pills into my hand.

The following day, they again took me to the horror chamber. The male nurse flung me on the plank-bed and Khoi started shouting. "We shall see if you can still keep your mouth shut today," he said. "If you want to live." Then he gave me a few hard blows, but I just stared defiantly at him without saying a word. One of the thugs, a gaudily dressed



was dead, my friend the nurse and some of her colleagues were still alive, saving my life. A few days later, the local people freed and took me to the liberated area, where I was sent to a hospital. When I had recovered, the comrades in charge told me I was exempted from all task. But how could I remain idle while the Yanks and their agents are still there? And so I've volunteered to serve in this hospital..."

The young nurse stopped and smiled. She had remained the shy and gentle girl I used to know. As I looked at her childlike face, my heart was overwhelmed by deep feelings: respect, love, and pride.

HUYNH TAM

US-Puppets' Crimes in South Viet Nam

(Continued from page 2)

Murders of Civilians

THE U.S.-puppet systematic massacre of South Vietnamese has just been denounced by a *Giai Phong* Agency report.

On February 12, in Phu Nhieu village, Thanh Binh district, Quang Nam province, ten elderly people between 60 and 77 years of age, and a pregnant woman, were detained, murdered, often in a trench and killed with hand grenades. In Tand Ky district, same province, an old woman at Vinh Binh was beaten to death. At approximately 10 AM, Khoi and Kien, both aged 20, at the *Giai Phong* Agency on 5 villages in Long An province with, as a result, hundreds of hectares of ricefields and orchards devastated and burnt down. In Can Lanth district, Kien Phong province, where U.S. bombings and shellings also took place,

Sprays of chemical products have also been reported by *Giai Phong* Agency on 5 villages in Long An province with, as a result, hundreds of hectares of ricefields and orchards devastated and burnt down. In Can Lanth district, Kien Phong province, where U.S. bombings and shellings also took place.

Military Operations

Enemy Substantial Losses in Tay Ninh and Quang Tri — Thua Thien Region

In 5 days, 500 enemy troops killed or wounded, 12 choppers downed, 37 vehicles destroyed and 6 companies wiped out in Tay Ninh province.

South of Khe Sanh and West of Hue, 550 adverse soldiers and 5 U.S. platoons put out of action, 8 aircraft grounded, 7 armoured cars destroyed in a week.

A police station near the puppet "Senate" meeting-hall destroyed by Saigon guerrillas.

TAY NINH AND MEKONG DELTA

THE PLAF were participants in the Tay Ninh province at the end of March and beginning of April.

On the night of March 20, the military training centre at Ben Keo, 5 km northwest of Tay Ninh, was surrounded and 200 enemy troops including GIs killed or wounded, 16 cannons destroyed, while at Ninh Dien and Thanh Dien, southwest of Tay Ninh, 2 puppet para battalions had 3 companies wiped out or decimated. Seven helicopters were downed on March 29 and 30.

On the night of April 2, on the Tay Ninh - Dau Tieng road, near Canh Khot, a dozen kilometres east of Ben Keo, a captured command vehicle park was stormed; 12 infantry companies and a battalion CP wiped out, 28 tanks and armoured cars destroyed. Meanwhile at Ninh Dien, a

dozen kilometres west of Ben Keo, 2 puppet para battalions were wiped out. After 20 minutes' fierce fighting, the PLAF wiped out 3 companies of Battalion 7 and depleted a company of Battalion 5.

On April 5, near Tra Co, a Uav camp, 55 kilometres west-northwest of Saigon came under heavy fire; 5 GI casualties and loss of 8 military vehicles, 4 ordnance pieces and 5 choppers.

Western sources reported that on March 8 last, the puppet para-paratroops had lost at least 76 men in an engagement with the PLAF in

that province.

Besides, according to *Giao Phong* Agency, between March 25 and April 2, the provincial command forces (army, navy, air force) suffered a total of adverse lives and materials: 1,600 men put out of action, 6 vehicles (30 armoured car(s)) destroyed, 14 choppers downed and 4 patrol-boats sunk

In these onsets, the enemy armoured car park about 50 km northwest of Saigon near Trang Hung, was hit; 51 vehicles (18 armoured cars) wrecked, 200 men killed or wounded, a chopper brought down.

In Saigon, on April 3, at 7.20 a.m. a PLAF self-defence unit broke into a police station defending the meeting hall of the so-called "Senate" and put out of action all the policemen there.

In the Mekong delta, the enemy started on March 20 a big operation in Long My and Vinh Thanh districts, about 100 km southwest of Saigon; up to March 20 he had 1500 men killed or wounded and 39 war vessels sunk or burnt.

About 100 km northwest, in the region called Seven Mountains, the patriotic forces between March 20 and 26, inflicted over 400 casualties on the enemy.

In the Plain of Reeds, near Moc Hoa, 95 km west of Saigon, on the night of March 20, an American flight of 12 aircrafts intercepted an Western Van Co river; 2 vessels set ablaze, about one hundred enemy troops killed or wounded. The last two PLAF shellings of Binh Due (near My Tho) base of US Infantry Division 9 on March 21 and 26 are reported by GPA to have caused 250 American casualties and destroyed 16 combat vehicles and 16 assistance to ammunition dumps fuel and explosive depots and food stores.

CENTRAL TRUNG BO

In Duc Pho region, 160 km south-southeast of Da Nang, nearly 450 enemy troops (300 GIs of Brigade 11 "American" Division) were put out of action on March 26 and 29.

Farther south, near Qui Nhon, on March 23 a logistic

base was set on fire: the explosions shook the neighbouring areas the whole night and sent up smoke hundreds of metres high into the sky; 3 shell depots and 2 stores of chemical products were blotted out.

In the Western High Plateaux, in Kontum province, a battalion of US Cavalry Division 12, was intercepted 13 km west-northwest of the provincial on April 9 and had a company and a platoon wiped out and another company decimated.

In Quang Tri and Thus Thao provinces, north of South Viet Nam, the PLAF hit hard at the enemy (chiefly GIs) in three sectors: north of Dong Ha near the DMZ, south of Khe Sanh and A Se region. The enemy had, between April 1 and 7, at least 550 men killed or wounded, a US platoon wiped out, 8 aircraft downed and 7 tanks and armoured cars destroyed.

Puppet Troops' Anti War Actions and Massive Desertsions

BETWEEN February 23, and March 10, 1969, there were hundreds of anti-war actions and desertions among the Saigon puppet troops.

In the provinces bordering on Saigon such as Long An (southwest) Tay Ninh (northwest), Giai Dinh (north of Saigon), and Binh Duong (west of Saigon), the puppet troops, Battalion 2, Regiment 46, and Battalion 2, Regiment 49, puppet Infantry Division 25, stationed at Long An, ten battalions were engaged in various raiding orders and then by their own military operations Company 2, Battalion 2, Regiment 46 five times refused to fight and 100 men were brought to bear on them by the COs, soldiers of 3 security companies and 3 civil-guard companies in the regular troops, security men the "fighting youths", civil-guard and "pacification" agents.

At Tay Ninh puppet Company 2, Battalion 2, Regiment 46, and Battalion 2, Regiment 49, a platoon raiding dead a company commander, wounding another and crossing over to the side of the NVA. In the last 10 days, desertions included two platoon commanders and a group leader. Meanwhile in the same province, 100 soldiers left the ranks of the puppet army.

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In Gia Dinh, 3 security companies resisted orders to stand up civilians and to set fire to their houses. In Ca Chi district alone (40 km northwest of Saigon), 120 men broke away from the puppet army (in regular troops of puppet Division 5).

In 6 provinces in the Mekong delta (from the Ilo Ilo km south and southwest of

Saigon): My Tho, Ben Tre, Go Cong, Vinh Linh, Moc Hoa, and Bau Loc, from February 23 to March 4, 1969, 2700 cases of desertion (including 110 from Division 7) were recorded.

The affected units were Ben Tre, Ben Tre, Moc Hoa, and Battalions 1, Regiment 12 of puppet Division 7 stationed at My Tho town, Battalion 1, Regiment 10, Division 7, Battalion 1, Regiment 11, and Qui Nhon, the Central training center (Kien Phong), a Ranger unit in Cao Lanh and other units. Some of the dissenters went after their commanders killing them.

In 6 provinces southwest of the Mekong river (50-250 km southwest of Saigon): Rach Gia, Can Tho, Vinh Long, Tra Vinh, Ca Mau, Soc Trang, the affected units passed over 2,000 cases of desertion among the regular troops, security men the "fighting youths", civil-guard and "pacification" agents.

Most remarkable was the anti-war action of Battalion 2 and 3, Regiment 31, puppet Division 21 in Can Tho. The soldiers in these two battalions threw away their weapons and uniforms; some of themselves and went sick to oppose their commanders' orders to go for a raid. In Can Tho, they were 1000 to desert, among the regular troops, security and home guard units.

In Rach Gia, a whole company of "fighting youths" deserted, leaving behind their families. In Vinh Long, 100 soldiers joined the NLF with weapons in a anti-war action staged by two regular puppet

battalions and 3 security companies which refused to raid the town.

In the provinces of Tra Vinh, Ca Mau and Soc Trang, in addition to isolated cases of war dissent, there were, showing the detection of no security troops and "pacification" agents in Tra Vinh, of 200 civil guards in Ca Mau and many soldiers of Battalion 1, Regiment 33, stationed at Soc Trang town.

— Da Nang region: Quang Nam province recorded the desertion of 350 men, of 4 civil-guard units in a regular section. Many puppet armymen stationed at Tam Ky (50 km southeast of Da Nang) set fire to an M-113 armoured car and many soldiers of the 1st platoon of Company 5, Regiment 5, deserted.

In Kontum, 10 km southwest of Da Nang, war protest of security company 897 created a stir in the district capital of Da To and forced the Army command and puppet commanders to cancel a contemplated operation.

— In Binh Thuan, 90 km southeast of Da Nang, two other actions occurred in companies 1 and 2, battalion 2, Regiment 31. Soldiers of Company 1 wounded the lieutenant commanding the company, forcing him to call off the raid. Soldiers of Company 3 killed their commander. A number of soldiers in these two companies deserted.

The anti-war actions and desertions which have been happening uninterruptedly in the last year and a half since the PLAF onslaught on Feb. 23 are clear indications of the low morale and relaxed discipline of the puppet army.

Latest News

TWO ENEMY AMMUNITION DUMPS AT TAY NINH BLOWN UP BY PLAF SHELLING

WESTERN agencies reported that, among the 45 targets bombarded by the PLAF on the night of April 6, an ammunition depot in the military sector CP and another one near the airfield of the town had been hit. An AP correspondent said these were exploded by the PLAF in a second attack shelling, and one hundred Yankees and militiamen (including the chief of the province) were wounded and 80 others reported missing. The sector CP, administrative offices, barracks and American officers' quarters were destroyed.